

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-56. Canceled.

57. (New) A method of blending food product in a container in which:
the container is charged with food product which is cooled to a storage temperature,
the container is fitted with a blending element located in the container,
a closure member is applied to the top of the container to seal the container,
the container is located in a blending position,
the food product is subjected to microwave energy to bring the food product from the storage temperature to the desired temperature for blending, in said blending position,
the blending element is releasably located in driving engagement with a drive motor extending through and adjacent to the closure member to blend the food product in the container, and
the blended food product is dispensed from the container.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the microwave energy is directed outwardly from an internal region of the container.

59. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the container and the drive are relatively moved to engage and disengage drive to the blending element.

60. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the drive is releasably connected to the blending element by engagement from an end of the container, through the closure member, and into engagement with the blending element within the container, such drive

engagement occurring upon engagement of the container with apparatus by which the container is located and held during heating and blending.

61. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the microwave energy is directed outwardly from antennae means located in a location member extending through food product in the container.

62. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the container is filled with product which is frozen, the container of frozen product is transported to a dispensing location at which the product is heated and blended for the customer to consume out of the container.

63. (New) A method according to claim 57, in which the food product includes components so that blending mixes the components to generate carbonation within the product.

64. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the container is held against rotation when the drive motor is operated to effect a blending operation.

65. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the microwave energy is directed from at least two different directions towards the container and its food contents.

66. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein the blending element is formed as an integral part of the container.

67. (New) A method according to claim 57, wherein, as a unit, the blending element and the container are disengaged and removed from the drive motor.

McGILL
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 42 and 43. One sheet, which includes Figs. 39, 39A, 40 and 41, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 39, 39A, 40 and 42. Figure 42 has been renumbered as Fig. 41. Remaining Figs. 43-49 have been renumbered as Figs. 42-48.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (8)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (8)